

Beneficiary Earnings Exchange Record (BEER)

Beneficiary Earnings Exchange Record (BEER) system is a monthly match performed by California Department of Social Services (CDSS) comparing CalFresh (formerly known as Food Stamps), and CalWORKs (formerly referred to as AFDC), and Medi-Cal records from the Medi-Cal Master Extract File (MMEF) against the Social Security Administration's Earned Income File. The BEER system contains out-of-state wages, military wages, federal wages, self-employment wages, and California wages not reported to EDD.

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History

Since its inception in 1988, the BEER system has been reporting wage information from the Social Security Administration (SSA). In 1984, Public Law 98-369, also known as the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984, section 2651 formally required states to establish an income and eligibility verification system for CalFresh and CalWORKs. In February 1986, Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 205.55 required states to check wages and income every three months.

Data Sources

The data comes from:

- Social Security Administration (SSA)
- Medi-Cal Master Extract File (MMEF) from Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Criteria

The matching process involves a 3-step activity:

1. The recipients' Social Security Number (SSN) is used to match the MMEF against the Earned Income file at SSA.
2. The matched records [containing Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)] are sent back to CDSS. The FEIN is used to match against the EDD wage file to eliminate records already sent to the counties via the Integrated Fraud Detection (IFD) System.

3. The remaining BEER records are then matched against the MMEF by using the SSN, date of birth (DOB) and gender to ensure an accurate match. Related county information is also added in the match to ease processing at the county level.

Tolerance Level

The consortia will only receive cases which show that the difference between the quarterly wages reported and those reported by the county that exceeds a specified level. The current discrepancy levels are \$4,800 for CalWORKs, \$11,200 for CalFresh, and \$12,000 for Medi-Cal, respectively.

Frequency

The match is sent monthly.

Method

The BEER match is delivered via Golden State Overnight (GSO) courier service. GSO signs off when packages are picked up from CDSS, and then the counties sign the bill of lading when the packages are handed over. A receipt of acknowledgement (included in the package) is required to be faxed back to CDSS in order to ensure that the county has received the package. CDSS will follow up with the county if the acknowledgement is not received.

Age of Data

The information can be 12-24 months old.

Mandates

The requirements to the BEER match are:

- Federal Mandate: Public Law 98-369
- 45 CFR 205.55 requires states to obtain wage information on a quarterly basis.
- This match must meet the 45 day requirement ([MPP 20-006.421](#)) for open aid cases. Current federal rules prescribe that action may be delayed beyond the 45-day time frame on no more than 20 percent of the IEVS case matches.

Notes
